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From the President

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From the PRESIDENT

I am so incredibly grateful to all of you for the opportunity to serve you as president of the Georgia Library Association (GLA) in 2019. I can only hope to continue the progress that is a result of my predecessors' efforts.

Fred Smith dedicated a considerable amount of time and energy to our organization and conference planning last year. One of his early actions was to support the development of a taskforce to establish a state-wide American Library Association (ALA) Black Caucus. The taskforce was led by Karen Manning and Tamika Barnes. A direct result of all of their efforts was our celebration of the establishment of an interest group at this year's Midwinter meeting. Fred also oversaw the site selection for the next two years of the Georgia Libraries Conference. As you might imagine, I'm delighted to have the opportunity to host you in my home community of Macon.

I think Fred would agree that we benefitted greatly from the continued leadership and commitment of Elizabeth McKinney. Elizabeth attained great things in her year as GLA president. She started a Conference Taskforce and supported Sofia Slutskaia in the development of a highly functional and attractive website upgrade. I continue to be impressed with her personal investment in the success of our professional organization.

My goal for the year is to simply continue this forward progress. My management philosophy is that the role of leadership is to listen to and fully support the efforts of those doing the heavy lifting of the work. In this vein, we have formed a taskforce to continue aligning GLA with the Friends of Georgia Libraries (FOGL) and

the Georgia Library Trustees, Friends and Advocates Association (GLTFAA) Division. This request was received by the Executive Board a couple of years ago and the melding of two structurally and financially complex entities has proven a significant challenge. Thankfully, I believe that we have assembled a very knowledgeable and capable taskforce to study and execute this effort.

We continue work on the Conference Planning Task Force recommendations. There were plenty of recommendations that would significantly benefit the organization and our members. Some have already been accomplished. Some will require more significant investments of time and energy but are worth that effort. I expect that this year we will continue progress on these recommendations.

There will be one item of business for the year that is not a direct result of my predecessors but absolutely vital for the health and wellness of our organization. Dr. Gordon Baker shared a letter of intent to retire from Administrative Services collectively to us three presidents. This is a significant transition for our organization. The depth of knowledge of the workings and traditions of our organization that are available from Gordon Baker are truly a treasure. He has served Georgia Library Association with dedication and loyalty in many different capacities. For this reason and many more, I could not fathom a better person to ask to serve as the Advisor to the President for my year. I am so honored that he agreed.

Gordon's retirement provides the priorities for my year. The essential task is the completion of

the request for proposal effort to secure administrative services for GLA. With Gordon's assistance and also the Administrative Services RFP Task Force established by Fred, I am hopeful that we will be able to have a reasonably smooth transition.

At the January Midwinter Planning Meeting I shared my guiding theme for the year, which is "Building Better Together." This will be our

conference theme but also seemed incredibly relevant to the work that we have ahead of us in 2019. I look forward to doing this work together with each of you over the upcoming year.

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